

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 ACDA-07 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00
USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04
EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 FEA-01 INT-05 PM-04
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /113 W
-----058802 232017Z /66

R 230924Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3132
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USMISSION NATO
AEMBASSY BRUSSELS (BY POUCH)

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EGEN IR BU ENRG
SUBJECT: IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BULGARIA

1. IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI VISITED BULGARIA
JUNE 13-16 DURING WHICH HE DELIVERED A LETTER FROM THE
SHAH TO PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV AND MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH DEPUTY
PREMIER LUKANOV, FINANCE MINISTER BELCHEV, TRANSPORTATION
MINISTER TSANOV, AND MINISTER OF FORESTS AND FOREST INDUSTRY
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MARKOV. VISIT WAS PART OF A SERIES OF HIGH LEVEL BILATERAL
CONTACTS INITIATED IN 1973 WHEN THE SHAH TRAVELLED TO BULGARIA.

2. KHALATBARI RECEIVED FRONT PAGE NEWS COVERAGE DURING
HIS STAY. PRESS PLAYED VISIT AS AN EXAMPLE OF MUTUALLY
REWARDING COOPERATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL
AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT BULGARIA

AND IRAN WERE CLOSE TOGETHER IN THEIR POSITIONS ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES INCLUDING COLLECTIVE SECURITY IN ASIA AND INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE.

3. VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN USEFUL IN FURTHER SOLIDIFYING BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT NOTHING NEW OF SUBSTANCE WAS ANNOUNCED. IRANIAN CHARGE MOHAMMED REZA AREFNIA JUNE 21 PROVIDED EMBOFF SOME INSIGHTS INTO STATE OF BULGARIAN-IRANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS:

A) TRADE -- 1976 TWO-WAY TRADE AMOUNTED TO \$100 MILLION, TO INCREASE TO \$130 MILLION THIS YEAR. TRADE IS CONDUCTED ON A BILATERAL BASIS WITH ACCOUNTS SETTLED AT EACH YEAR'S END. FOR THE PAST "FEW YEARS" TRADE HAS BEEN IN "APPROXIMATE BALANCE". IRAN FINDS BULGARIA A GOOD SOURCE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, ESPECIALLY MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS, AS WELL AS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. (SMALL DAM CONSTRUCTION, IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, AND HEAVY INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY WERE MENTIONED.) IN ADDITION, BULGARIA PROVIDES A GOOD MARKET FOR MANY IRANIAN PRODUCTS (PARTICULARLY CONSUMER GOODS; TEXTILES, FOOTWEAR, AND SOME CHILDREN'S TOYS WERE MENTIONED.) COOPERATION IN TRANSPORTATION HAS ALSO BEEN MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS AND IS TO INCREASE.

B) OIL -- AREFNIA STATED THAT IRAN CURRENTLY EXPORTS "ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT" OF OIL TO BULGARIA, AT ONE POINT HE SAID "NO MORE THAN 15 PER CENT OF OUR BILATERAL EXPORTS." COMMENT: THIS WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE APPROXIMATELY \$7.5 MILLION BASED ON LAST YEAR'S FIGURES. AT \$13/BARREL THAT WOULD BE ABOUT 500,000 BARRELS OR SOMEWHAT MORE THAN 70,000 TONS; I.E., LESS THAN 1 PER CENT OF BULGARIA'S CONSUMPTION. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT BULGARIA WOULD RECEIVE A SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR ANY OIL IT RECEIVES FROM IRAN, BUT BECAUSE OF THE BILATERAL TRADE ARRANGEMENT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BULGARIA OBTAINS SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN OPEN MARKET PRICES FOR SOME OF ITS EXPORTS TO IRAN. END COMMENT. AREFNIA REITERATED STANDARD IRANIAN POSITION THAT IT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO SELLING MORE OIL TO BULGARIA, BUT SAID THAT BULGARIANS HAVE NOT PRESSED FOR ADDITIONAL DELIVERIES.

4. AREFNIA HAD NO COMMENT REGARDING STATUS OF IRAN'S LOANS TO BULGARIA OR POSSIBILITY OF NEW PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN. HOWEVER, MEETINGS OF KHALATBARI WITH LUKANOV (ALSO CHAIRMAN OF GOB COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION) AND FINANCE MINISTER INDICATE THAT SUCH MATTERS WERE RAISED. ACCORDING TO AREFNIA, JOINT MINISTERIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN TEHRAN LATER THIS YEAR TO DISCUSS FURTHER EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC TIES.

5. CONTEMPORANEOUSLY WITH KHALATBARI'S VISIT, THE BULGARIAN

PRESS REPORTED THAT IRANIAN QUOTE WARSHIPS END QUOTE UNDER
COMMAND OF CAPT. HOSEIN KASHANI PAID VISIT TO VARNA
JUNE 15-18 AND THAT IRANIAN OFFICERS CALLED ON COMMANDER
OF BULGARIAN NAVY, VICE ADMIRAL VASIL YANAKIEV.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 23-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, IR, BU, (KHALATBARI, ABAS ALI)
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